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Manitoba

Annual Report 1990 - 91

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Manitoba

Criminal Injuries
Compensation Board

763 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3G 3N2

Judge Robert L. Kopstein
Chairperson

(204) 774-3565

The Honourable James McCrae
Attorney General
Room 104 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C OV8

Dear Mr. McCrae:

On behalf of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, we are pleased to present our Annual Report in accordance with Section 27 of The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

This Annual Report covers the twelve month fiscal period from April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Kopstein,
Chairperson

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Introduction

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act was passed July 16, 1970 and provides that injured victims of crime, or their dependents, be eligible for benefits in an amount similar to workers under the Workers Compensation Act. The intent of the Act was to ensure that any innocent victim of crime or any person injured as a result of assisting a Peace officer should not be placed in a position of undue financial hardship.

At that time, the administrative system already in place for Workers Compensation appeared to be the most appropriate system for addressing the needs of processing Criminal Injuries Compensation claims. Therefore, in 1971 the Workers Compensation Board was designated to administer the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Funding for Criminal Injuries Compensation comes from the Consolidated Fund of the Province of Manitoba through the offices of the Department of Justice and the Workers Compensation Board is reimbursed an administrative fee to provide services. A portion of funding is also received from the Federal Government Department of Justice.

This annual report reviews general information about Criminal Injuries Compensation as well as relevant statistical tables and graphs and a statement of claims costs.

Year in Review

Schedule I of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act was amended to add Section 245.4 of the Criminal Code, Torture, to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board continues to increase public awareness of the program through participation in a number of information sessions and also participating in training programs of local law enforcement officers.

Looking Ahead

A review of the Workers Compensation legislation is currently underway and it's proposed changes will be studied to determine their potential effect on administration of the Criminal Injuries Compensation program.

General Information

Claims for assistance are made directly to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Any person who is an innocent victim of crime and sustains an injury, or anyone who is injured or killed while attempting to arrest any person, preserve the peace or assist a Peace Officer, may file a claim. This is also applicable to any person who is the surviving spouse, parent, child or dependant of such a victim. The crime must be of the type listed in Schedule I attached to the Act. A copy of Schedule I is provided on Page 29.

Under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, a report must be made by the injured victim to the police as soon as possible and the victim must co-operate with the police in apprehension of the offender. A person responsible for the crime or an accomplice to the crime is not eligible to receive an award.

The Act requires that the claim be filed within two years of the injury or death. It is only in very exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Board, that the time limit may be extended.

Two of the pre-requisites in making a claim are that a crime within the schedule of crimes listed in the Act was committed (or peace preserving assistance took place), and that such event directly resulted in injury or death of the victim.

Benefits available to injured victims of crime, or their dependants in case of fatality, include 75% of wages up to the legislated maximum under The Workers Compensation Act.

Monies are also available to cover expenses related to clothing, prescription drugs, broken eyeglasses, artificial limbs and dental expenses provided a minimum loss of $150.00 is incurred. Assistance toward funeral expenses is also available.

Loss of money on the victim's person or kept by the victim in any place at the time of the crime, or loss/damage to personal property other than clothing, eyeglasses, dentures is not covered. Under the Act in Manitoba, payment is not made for pain and suffering.

All monies received by the victim or dependant in respect of the injury/death (including private insurance, restitution, etc.), are deductible from Criminal Injuries benefits.

Rehabilitation services including counselling and referral to appropriate agencies is available to assist victims of crime when it is identified that such assistance would be of benefit.

There is no cost to a victim in the filing and processing of claims. Once the claim has been filed, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board gathers all necessary documentation to process the claim, and the decision is forwarded directly to the claimant. An appeal process is available if the claimant is not satisfied with the Board's decision, and the information regarding this is provided to the claimant when they are notified of the Board's decision.

In Manitoba there are no residence exclusions in claiming for Criminal Injuries Compensation. The crime must have occurred within the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba, but the victim does not have to be a Manitoba resident.

Departmental Information

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board staff consists of a Registrar, an Assistant to the Registrar, and an Administrative Assistant for clerical and typing services.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board of Commissioners, which is also The Workers Compensation Board of Commissioners, establishes policies and criteria for the operations of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and support services are provided by the Finance and Administration and Benefits Division of the Workers Compensation Board.

Processing of criminal injury claims takes place in consultation with various branches of the Workers Compensation Board.

Adjudication and Appeals

1st Level — Initial Adjudication

(a) Claims Decisions — The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar evaluates a claim, decides if it qualifies, and either approves or rejects the claim. This includes initial claims or claims for recurrence of signs and symptoms of a previous compensable injury. The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar then decides the compensation rate based on information supplied and the period of time loss based on medical information.

(b) Medical Aid Decisions — The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar, evaluates requests for any necessary treatment, hospitalization, nursing, prescribed drugs, artificial limbs, eyeglasses, transportation expenses, etc., that are related to the claim for compensation.

Process of Appeal:

IF additional information is submitted which might affect the decision in any of the above instances, or if an issue is being raised that was not considered in the original decision, the matter is reconsidered by the person who made the original decision.

IF the submission does not contain additional information or does not raise a new issue or a change cannot be made in the initial decision, the claim file is referred directly to the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee.

2nd Level — Committee

(a) Claims Decisions (including Medical Aid) — The *Criminal Injuries Claims Committee* considers all claims decisions appeals where the initial decision cannot be changed or amended to the satisfaction of the appellant by the previous level. This Committee may conduct further investigations into the claim and has the authority to approve or deny compensation. This Committee may also reconsider any of its previous decisions *but only* if the appellant:

(i) Raises an issue previously not addressed.

(ii) Submits evidence or information not previously available.

The Criminal Injuries Claims Committee may refer a claim file to a Medical Review Panel; Criminal Injuries Compensation Act Section 26(2) states:

Reference by board in its discretion.

"Where in any application under this Act a medical matter arises in which the board desires a further opinion, the board may refer the matter to a panel for its opinion in respect of the matter."

A difference of medical opinion is not a requirement in Section 26(2) as it is in Section 26(3) of the Criminal Injuries Act and 67(4) of The Workers Compensation Act.

(b) Rehabilitation Decisions — *The criminal Injuries Claims Committee* considers all appeals where the issue is in the provision of rehabilitation services and benefits.

Process of Appeal:

IF additional information is submitted which might affect the adjudication decision, or if an issue is being raised that was not considered in the original decision, this will be considered by the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee.

IF a written appeal to a Criminal Injuries Claims Committee decision is received, the matter is referred to the Appeal Commission who may make arrangements for a Board Hearing.

Final Level — Appeal Commission

The party appealing previous decisions may request either a Review or a Hearing. The Appeal Panel may request additional field investigations, conduct its own investigation, or may refer the matter to an appropriate independent medical specialist or panel of specialists for medical input before reaching a conclusion.

(a) Review — This review deals simply with the information that is already on the file, as well as any new written submissions.

(b) Hearing — The appellant/counsel may verbally present their case to an Appeal Panel. Additional information or a new issue will be considered.

It is recommended that all additional information and/or issue(s) be presented at the Review or Hearing, as this is the final level of appeal. Following the Appeal Panel consideration of the case, all parties concerned will be notified of their decision and the criteria on which the decision was based.

Appeal Statistics:

These statistics cover the period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991.

Number of files considered by the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee	7
Breakdown of Decisions	
Appeals denied	6
Appeals accepted	1
Total	7

Number of files considered by the Appeal Commission	4
Committee decision rescinded	0
Committee decision amended	0
Committee decision confirmed	4
Referred to Medical Review Panel	0
Total	4

Manitoba

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Compensation Board

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Financial Report 1990-91

The accompanying financial statements, and other financial information in the annual report, are the responsibility of management and have been approved by the Board. The accompanying financial statements were prepared by management in accordance with the accounting principles set out in Note 2 to the financial statements and of necessity, include some amounts based upon management's best estimates and judgements. Any financial information contained elsewhere in the annual report conforms to these financial statements.

As management is responsible for the integrity of the financial statements, management has established systems of internal control to provide reasonable assurance that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded from loss.

The external auditors have performed an independent examination of the financial statements of the Board in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

Lorne A. McMillan, C.A.
Executive Director of Finance and Administration

Graham F.J. Lane, C.A.
Chief Executive Officer

Office of
the Provincial Auditor

905 – 386 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 3R6

Auditor's Report

To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

We have audited the balance sheet of The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board as at March 31, 1991 and the statement of operations for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the board's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the board as at March 31, 1991 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies stated in note 2 to the financial statements.

Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 11, 1991

F.H. Jackson, CA
Provincial Auditor

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Balance Sheet

as at March 31, 1991
(with 1990 figures for comparison)

	1991	1990
Assets		
Bank	$ 65,969	$ —
Receivable from the Province of Manitoba for current awards	134,031	204,702
Receivable from the Province of Manitoba for unfunded future cost of awards	21,508,187	19,947,078
	$ 21,708,187	$ 20,151,780
Liabilities and Provisions		
Bank indebtedness	$ —	$ 4,702
Advance from the Province of Manitoba	200,000	200,000
Provision for future costs		
Pension obligations	19,776,629	18,619,793
Future cost of existing claims	1,731,558	1,327,285
	21,508,187	19,947,078
	$ 21,708,187	$ 20,151,780

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Statement of Operations

for the year Ended March 31, 1991
(with 1990 figures for comparison

	1991	1990
Revenues:		
Province of Manitoba:	$ 3,353,550	$ 4,893,769
Recoveries — restitution, insurance	46,961	3,299
Bank interest, net of charges	9,914	4,073
Total revenues	3,410,425	4,901,141
Operating Costs:		
Pensions, inclusive of future obligations	2,380,441	4,017,584
Temporary disability	286,690	308,879
Medical aid	239,670	176,299
Rehabilitation	52,390	61,681
Increase in provision for future cost of existing claims	404,273	333,399
Remittance of recoveries to Province of Manitoba	46,961	3,299
Total operating costs	3,410,425	4,901,141
	$ —	$ —

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Notes to Financial Statement

for the year Ended March 31, 1991

1. Authority and Operations

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act provides that injured victims of crime, or their dependents, be eligible for benefits in an amount similar to compensation paid to workers under The Workers Compensation Act. The intent of the Act is to ensure that any innocent victim of crime or any person injured as a result of assisting a Peace Officer should not be placed in a position of undue financial hardship.

Under an Order of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, The Workers Compensation Board (W.C.B.) was designated to administer The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. All charges for the administration of the Act are paid from the Consolidated Fund of the Government of the Province of Manitoba through an appropriation of the Department of Justice.

2. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies.

a) Operating Costs

The Board follows the accrued basis of accounting. The policies for the recognition of pension costs and other operating costs consist of:

(i) Pensions

The capitalized value of pensions are reflected in operating costs in the year that pensions are approved or discontinued. Legislative amendments, changes in actuarial assumptions and changes in accrued benefits are reflected in operating costs in the year of the change. Benefits paid are reflected in the operating costs as incurred.

(ii) Other Operating Costs

Temporary disability, rehabilitation and medical aid payments are reflected in operating costs as incurred.

The change in the provision for future cost of existing claims is reflected in operating costs in the year of the change.

b) Receivables

All costs of administering the Act are paid out of the Consolidated Fund under section 24(1) of the Act. Consequently any operational deficiencies are recoverable from the Province of Manitoba.

c) Provision for Future Costs

(i) Pension Obligations

The capitalized values of pensions are calculated using a 3% discount rate which provides for the estimated cost of anticipated future increases in pension benefits.

The pension obligations provision was estimated by the Board utilizing independent actuarial methodology employed by The Workers Compensation Board in determining their obligations.

(ii) Future Cost of Existing Claims

This provision is the estimated amount required to meet the future cost of temporary disability, rehabilitation and medical aid claims incurred prior to March 31, 1991.

An independent actuarial review as at March 31, 1989 provided a methodology to estimate the present value of liabilities for existing claims. The provision for the future costs of existing claims as at March 31, 1991 was estimated by the Board using an update of this methodology.

d) Administration Expenses

Transactions in respect of benefit payments of the Board are processed by The Workers Compensation Board (W.C.B.). Administration expenses, such as W.C.B. staff salaries and other operating expenses for administering The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, are billed to and paid from the appropriation of the Department of Justice and are reflected in the accounts for W.C.B. For the year ended March 31, 1991, the W.C.B. billed $186,430 (1990 — $167,787) which was reimbursed by the Province of Manitoba.

3. Pension Obligations

The changes in the capitalized values of pension obligations during the year were as follows:

Provision for pension obligations, March 31, 1990	$ 18,619,793
Pensions approved	1,649,699
Pensions discontinued	(295,135)
Change in accrued benefits	(197,728)
Provision for pension obligations, March 31, 1991	$ 19,776,629

4. Comparative Figures

Certain of the 1990 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's financial statement presentation.

Introduction to Statistical Section

Table 1 documents the disposition of claims for the period April 1, 1990. There were 58 claims held over from the previous year, pending further police, medical and employment information.

Table II records the type of claim approved. Schedule I of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act outlines the type of crimes for which Criminal Injuries Compensation can be made. The schedule is illustrated on page 29. A claim may also be made for injury or death from an attempt to arrest a person, preserve the peace or assist a Peace officer.

Table III is an analysis of claims benefits paid for ten year period from 1982. This documents temporary and permanent disability payments, rehabilitation cash benefits and other benefit costs.

Table IV provides statistical information which outlines a complete breakdown of "other benefits costs" paid for the period April 1, 1990 t March 31, 1991. This section also provides comparative figures from the last annual report.

Table V presents information regarding the number of claims processed over a ten year period. The reasons for non acceptance of claims are explained in "most frequent reasons for non-acceptance of claims" on page 28.

Figure I illustrates the ages of the victims for which claims have been filed. The 21-30 age group has been identified previously as the greatest number of victims.

Figure II illustrates the employment and income status of the applicants.

Figure III provides a comparison of the sex of the victims for which Criminal Injuries claims filed. The percentage of male victims remains significantly higher than females.

Figure IV illustrates the crime occurrence area of the Province for which claims have been filed. Winnipeg has the highest number of applicants.

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Introduction to Statistical Section

Table I Disposition of Claims for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991

Table II Approved Claims for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991

Table III Claims Benefits Paid by Year

Table IV Other Benefits Paid for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991

Table V Number of Claims Processed by Year

Figure I Claims Filed for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991 — Ages of Victims

Figure II Claims Filed for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991 — Employment status of the Victim

Figure III Claims Filed for the Period April, 1990 to March 31, 1991 — Sex of the Victim

Figure IV Claims Filed During the Period April, 1990 to March 31, 1991 — Crime Occurrence Area of Province

Table I
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Disposition of Claims

for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991

	1991	1990
New Applications	480	377
Applications Carried over from Previous Year	58	31
Cases Reopened	0	12
Total Files	538	420
Files Held Over to Next Year	91	58
Total Applications Processed	447	362
Breakdown of Applications processed		
Approved	328	272
Denied	106	79
Not Pursued	13	11
	447	362

Table II
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Approved Claims

for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991

Under Schedule 1	1991	1990
Careless use of a Firearm	3	1
Causing explosion of explosive substances with the intent to do bodily harm or endanger a life	0	1
Sexual intercourse with a female under 14 years	2	2
Causing Bodily Harm by Criminal Negligence	2	1
Murder	18	18
Attempted Murder	9	13
Overcoming resistance to an offense	1	0
Assault	45	20
Assault with a weapon	93	106
Aggravated Assault	67	49
Sexual Assault	14	10
Sexual Assault with a Weapon	13	12
Kidnapping	1	0
Robbery	56	38
	324	271
Assisting a Peace Officer/Good Samaritan Attempt	4	1
	328	272

Table III
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Benefits Paid by Year

Year Ended March 31	Temporary Disability	Permanent Disability	Other Benefit Costs*	Rehabilitation Cash Benefits	Total
1991	$ 286,690	$ 1,223,605	$ 239,670	$ 52,390	$ 1,802,355
1990	308,879	1,210,861	176,299	61,681	1,757,720
1989	391,848	1,027,869	171,957	56,899	1,648,573
1988	333,725	939,251	156,192	59,827	1,488,995
1987	216,145	825,694	160,045	55,624	1,257,508
1986	247,522	613,997	84,444	70,085	1,016,048
1985	298,797	641,589	99,237	84,231	1,123,854
1984	392,365	442,048	100,159	50,799	985,371
1983	343,931	371,579	70,656	14,401	800,567
1982	248,716	299,486	52,513	5,285	606,000

Table IV
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Other Benefits Paid
for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991
(with Comparative figures for the previous period)

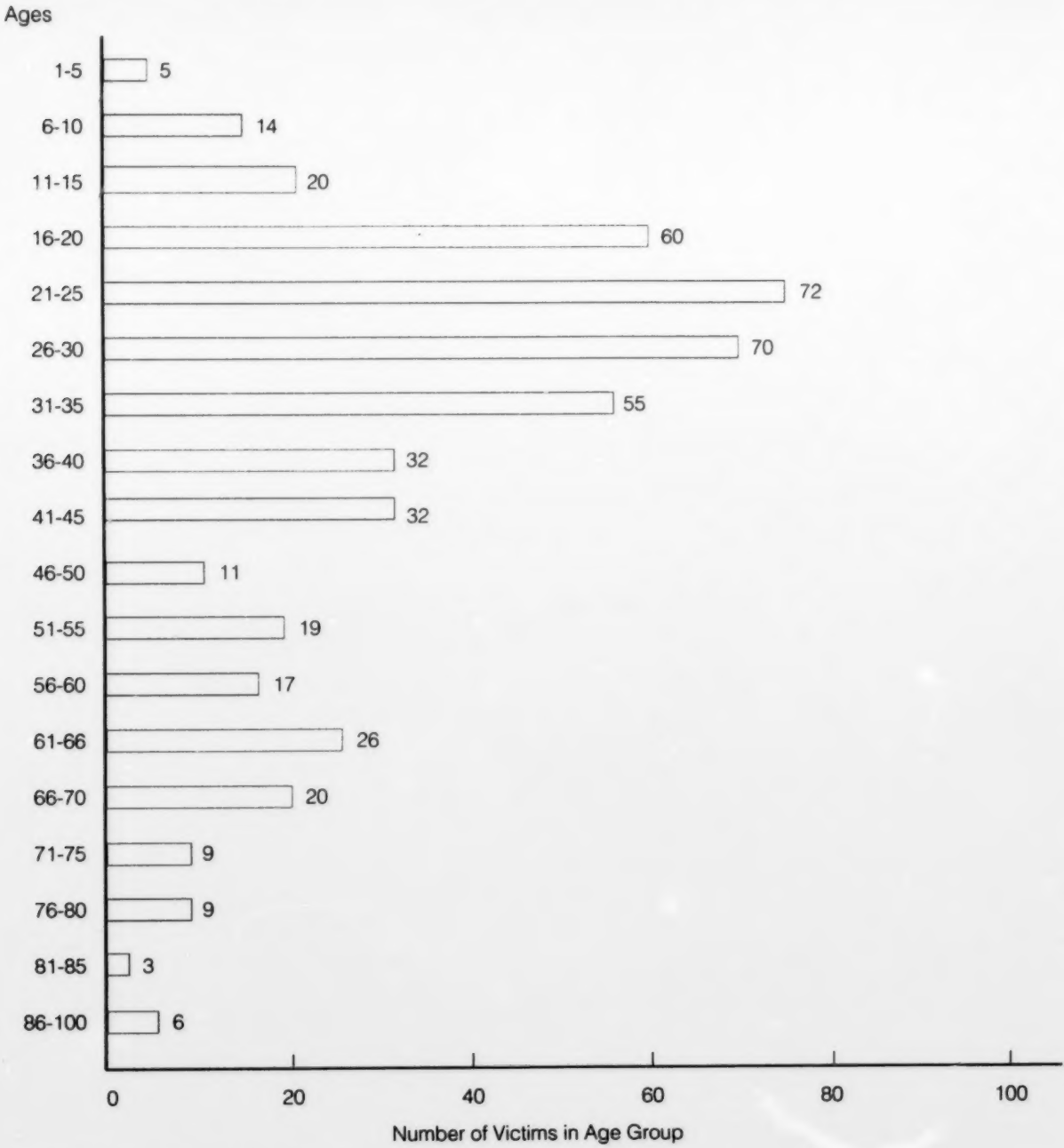
	1991	1990
Attendants Allowance	$ 61,930	$ 47,760
Dental Treatment	35,757	19,586
Psychological Counselling	24,928	17,844
Medical Reporting Fees	22,927	18,944
Funeral Expense	16,764	14,801
Clothing Reimbursement	16,565	11,669
Appliances	12,922	4,455
Transportation	10,229	6,621
Ambulance	9,675	9,850
Eyeglasses	6,860	8,681
Drug Expenses	6,816	7,051
Sundry	6,076	3,584
Physiotherapy	3,825	2,346
Chiropractic Treatment	2,961	374
Counselling	1,335	935
Nurses	100	0
Speech Therapy	0	1487
In-Patient Accounts	0	259
Outpatient Accounts	0	52
Total	$ 239,670	$ 176,299

Table V
The Criminal injuries Compensation Board

Number of Claims Processed by Year

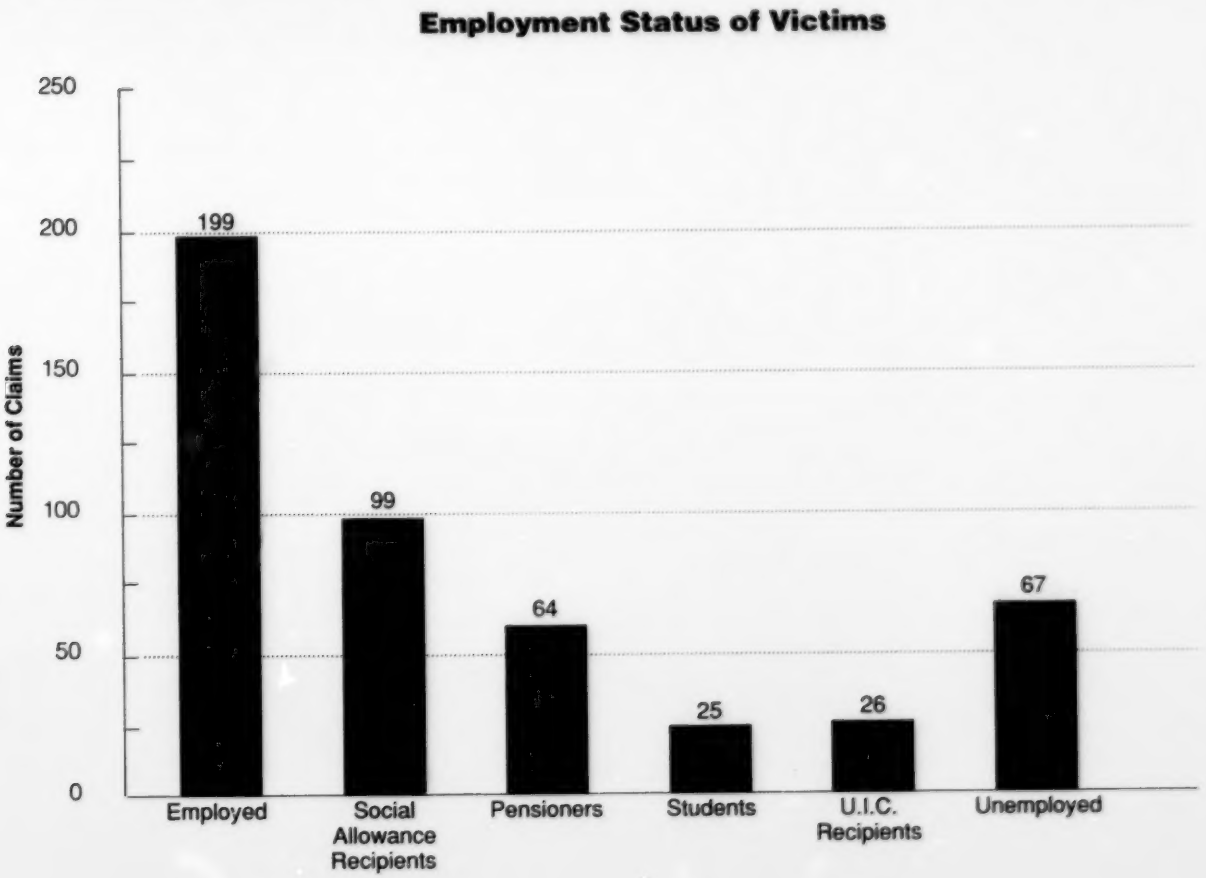
Year Ended March 31	Approved	Denied	Referred to Workers Compensation Board
1991	**328**	**106**	**0**
1990	272	79	0
1989	285	87	0
1987	300	54	0
1986	189	23	0
1985	197	29	0
1984	257	36	2
1983	166	64	2
1982	125	50	1
1981	119	50	6

Figure I
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991
(based on information filed initially)



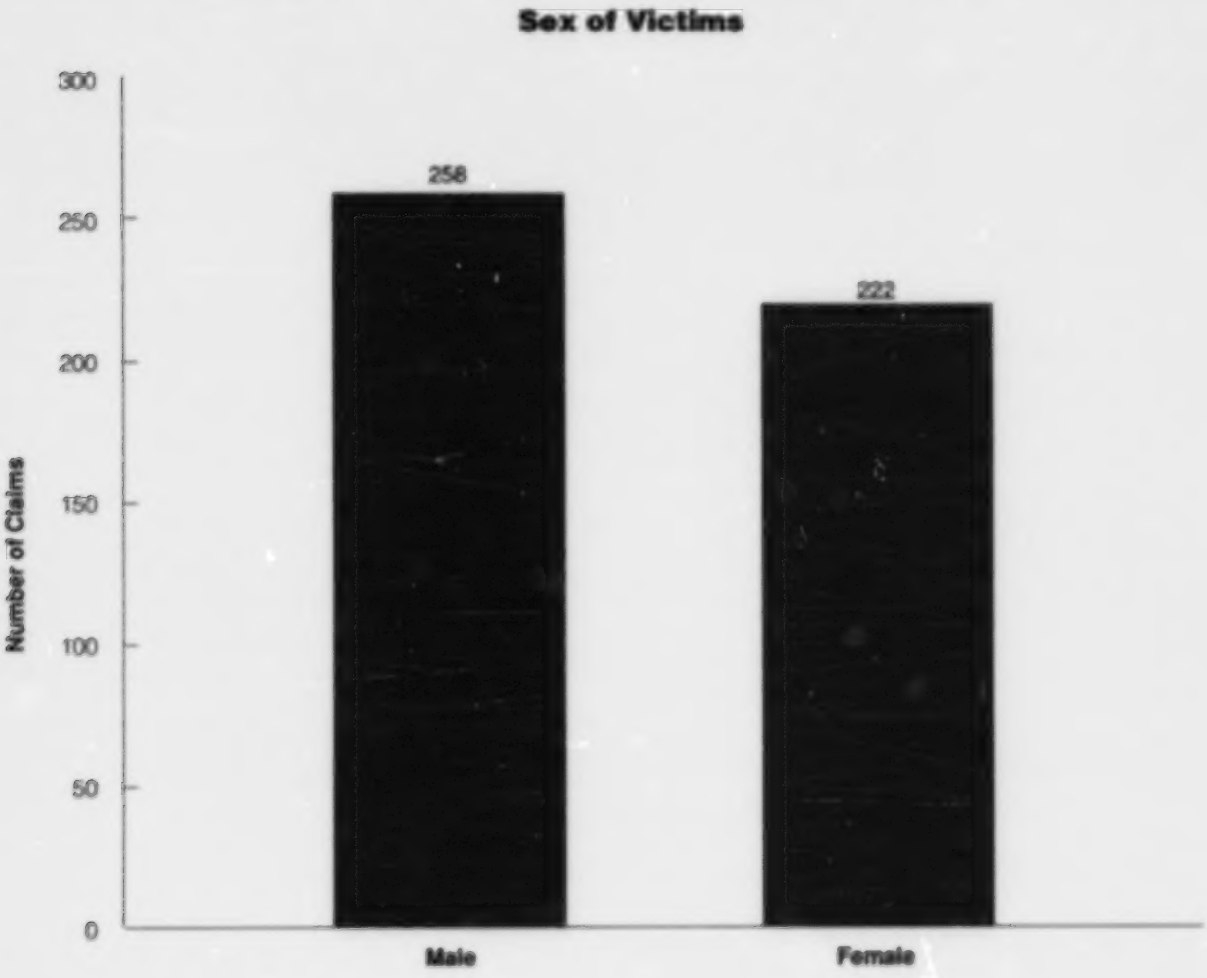
**Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.*

Figure II
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991
(based on information filed initially)



Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Figure III
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991
(based on information filed initially)



*Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Figure IV
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the Period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991
(based on information filed initially)

Crime Occurrence Area of Province

Winnipeg = 408 Claims
Brandon = 24 Claims
Rural Manitoba = 48 Claims

*Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Most Frequent Reasons for Non-Acceptance of Claims

	1991	1990
SECTION 6(2)(a)		
"Except as otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the application for compensation is made after the expiration of 2 years from the date of the injury or death as the case may be."	5	1
SECTION 6(2)(B)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the crime of violence giving rise to the claim was not reported within a reasonable period of time after the happening thereof to the proper law enforcement officers, or if reported, the claimant did not render the assistance in the apprehension of the offender as he might reasonably be expected."	47	40
SECTION 11(1)		
"The board in making or in declining to make an order for compensation shall consider and take into account all circumstances as it considers relevant to the making of the order and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the board shall consider and take into account the character of the applicant and any behaviour that directly or indirectly contributed to the death of the victim."	10	12
SCHEDULE 1		
No evidence of a crime under the Schedule of crimes under the Act.	44	26
	106	79

Schedule 1

Section of Criminal Code	Description of Offence
65	taking part in a riot
76	hijacking of aircraft
77	endangering safety of aircraft in flight
78	taking on board a civilian aircraft offensive weapons and explosive substances
80	failure to take reasonable care in relation to explosives where death or bodily harm results
81	causing explosion of explosive substances with intent to do bodily harm or endanger life
86	unlawful pointing of firearm; careless use, carriage, handling etc. of firearm of ammunition
153	sexual intercourse with female under age 14; sexual intercourse with female between 14 and 16
180	common nuisance causing physical injury
215	failure to provide necessaries of life
218	abandoning child and endangering its life
220	causing death by criminal negligence
221	causing bodily harm by criminal negligence
235	murder
236	manslaughter
239	attempted murder
244	causing bodily harm with intent
245	administering poison or other destructive or noxious things
245.4	torture
246	overcoming resistance to commission of offence
247	traps likely to cause bodily harm
258	dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft; dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft causing bodily harm; dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft causing death
260	operation of vessel or aircraft while impaired by alcohol or with more than 80 mgs. of alcohol in 100 millitres of blood
262	impeding attempt to save life
266	assault
267	assault with weapon; assault causing bodily harm
268	aggravated assault
269	unlawfully causing bodily harm
270	assault on public or peace officers, persons enforcing, etc.
271	sexual assault
272	sexual assault with weapon, threats to a third party, causing bodily harm
273	aggravated sexual assault
279	kidnapping, illegal confinement
287	procuring miscarriage
343	robbery
423	intimidation by violence (ss(1) para. (a))
433	arson
436	causing fire resulting in loss of life
437	false fire alarm
929	assisting a peace officer

Victim/Witness Services

Victim Services

Services for this program are provided by the Winnipeg Police Department, and the type of assistance provided includes:

1. Information regarding the progress of the case, investigation and the recovery and return of any stolen property.
2. Assistance in understanding the procedures and practices of the Criminal Justice System.
3. Referral to the appropriate community agency for counselling services, legal advice, health care, etc., as required.
4. Referral to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for victims injured as the result of a crime.
5. Emotional and moral support will be provided throughout the case. This is especially important to victims of violent crimes.

Older Victim Services

There are services available to retired persons or those over the age of 60 through the Age and Opportunity Centre, Inc. Services are essentially the same as outlined under Victim Services.

Victim Assistance Committee

On January 1, 1987 the Justice For Victim's of Crime Act (Manitoba) was proclaimed. This legislation includes three major features; a Declaration of Principles; the creation of a Victim s Assistance Committee and the creation of a Victim's Assistance Fund.

The Victim's Assistance Fund is a separate fund to be used for the development of services and programs for victims. Financial resources for the fund are generated through the imposition of a surcharge on existing non-bylaw provincial fines. The legislation also provides for the surcharge of $25.00 in a case where a fine is not a part of final disposition of the court.

Any person or organization may apply for funding of research, information or a victim services project.

For further information please contact the Victim's Assistance Committee, 5th Floor, Woodsworth Building, 405 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program is not a part of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, however, this is a support program and public awareness of this service is important. It is for this reason that information has been included in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Annual Report.

The purpose of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program is to provide a support service to people who have become the victim of a crime or those who are innocently involved in the criminal justice system.

Victim/Witness Assistance is provided through a reception centre located on the 4th Floor, Law Courts, 408 York Avenue. The program is staffed by a Co-ordinator, a Witness Worker and a number of volunteers who have been familiarized with the criminal justice system.

It is the responsibility of staff to promptly notify witnesses of cancellations. Witnesses attending at the reception centre will be advised who the crown attorney is and will receive answers to any questions they may have.

Crown witnesses also wait in the reception center before being called which means they no longer have to sit in the same room with the accused or defence lawyer. After giving evidence, they may remain, if they wish, with other spectators in the court room.

Interpretation services are provided when needed and referrals are made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board when appropriate.

Informational brochures are distributed with all court subpoenas and throughout the province in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Victim/Witness Program is funded through the Attorney-General of Manitoba.